

June 3, 1913.

Prof. E. W. MACBRIDE, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

Mr. D. SETH-SMITH, F.Z.S., Curator of Birds, exhibited the egg and young of the Mikado Pheasant (*Calophasis mikado*), a rare species, described first in 1906, from the mountains of Formosa. Some living specimens had been imported in 1912 by Mr. Walter Goodfellow, and the owners of these birds had entrusted the eggs to the Zoological Society, where they were being hatched.

The egg was cream-coloured and very large compared with those of allied species of pheasants, measuring 57×41 mm.

The incubation period proved to be twenty-eight days, instead of twenty-four as in the majority of pheasants, and the young when newly hatched were very large, and had the quill-feathers better developed than was the case in allied species.

PAPERS.

45. The Transvaal Race of the Cape, or Khama, Hartebeest*.

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[Received April 1, 1913: Read April 8, 1913.]

(Text-figure 135.)

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In their excellent volume, 'The Sportsman in South Africa,' Messrs. Nicolls and Eglington describe (p. 45) the Cape, or Rooi, Hartebeest (*Bubalis caama*), probably from fresh specimens, as follows:—

"General colour reddish brown, with violet tinge throughout; dark plum-coloured saddle-patch, commencing at point of shoulder, extends over entire surface of back and ends in root of tail; a similar patch extends over each shoulder, downwards as far as knees, and front of shin-bones of fore-legs; pale yellowish patch on cheeks of rump; front of face, which is very long, almost black, as is a stripe down back of neck."

In their figure of the head (pl. iv. fig. 13) the broad face-blaze is shown as extending uninterruptedly from the base of the horns

* [The complete account of this new subspecies appears here, but since the name and a preliminary diagnosis were published in the 'Abstract,' No. 119, 1913, it is distinguished by being underlined.—EDITOR.]

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to the muzzle; but, in many cases at any rate, this is divided by a narrow tawny line at the level of the eyes. They omit to mention a plum-coloured patch on the side of the thighs below the light area, extending to the hocks.

In the 'Book of Antelopes,' by Messrs. Selater and Thomas, an obviously over-coloured plate (no. iv.) of the entire animal is given, in which the dark face-blaze, divided by an interocular light bar, and the dark markings on the fore and hind limbs are clearly shown, although there is no sign of a plum-coloured saddle-patch. The authors describe the general colour as brownish fulvous, darker than in any other member of the genus.

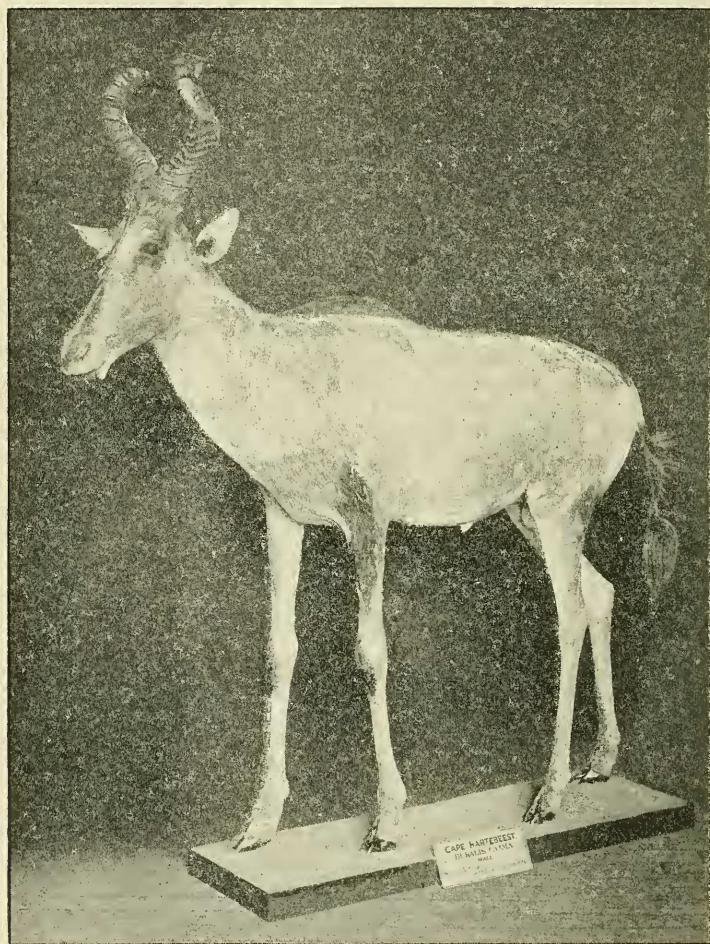
The only specimen of an adult male Cape Hartebest from Cape Colony in the British Museum is one obtained by Sir Andrew Smith, which has recently been dismounted and converted into a flat skin. Although much faded by long exposure, it serves to show that the type of colouring was originally much the same as in the plate in the 'Book of Antelopes.'

A few years ago Lord Selborne was good enough to offer to endeavour to procure for the Museum specimens of such South African Antelopes as might be required for public exhibition; and as a result of his lordship's request the skin, skull, and horns of an adult male of the Transvaal representative of the Cape Hartebest were received at the Museum in 1912, as a gift from the De Beers Mining Company. The specimen was in due course set up by Rowland Ward, Ltd., and placed on exhibition in the galleries in lieu of the old and faded example from Cape Colony referred to above. At the time I was busy with other matters, and consequently did not pay any attention to the details of the new acquisition. Recently, however, I have had occasion to review all the Hartebests in the collection; and this survey has left no doubt that the Transvaal Hartebest, which was shot in the neighbourhood of Kimberley, represents a very distinct undescribed race of *Bubalis caama*.

From the typical Khama this race differs by its much paler general colouring, which is yellowish fawn or tawny, not unlike that of *B. cokei*, by the minor development and intensity of the dark markings, and by the apparently less sharp definition of the white on the sides and back of the lower part of the rump. The general tawny tint tends to chestnut on the loins, as in *B. cokei*, but elsewhere the back is of much the same colour as the flanks. The nuchal stripe is indistinct; and the face-blaze, instead of forming, with the exception of the narrow light band between the eyes, a continuous wholly black streak from the horns to the muzzle, is much broken up, and everywhere mingled with fawn-coloured hairs. It practically stops short of the horns, and is interrupted in the neighbourhood of the eyes by a fawn area, mingled with a few blackish hairs, for a length of about four inches, while the nasal portion does not nearly reach the muzzle. Then, again, the dark patch on the shoulder and fore-leg is much less intense than in the typical race, and is everywhere mingled with fawn

hairs, while it stops short of the knees, on which it forms a dark patch, and on the shanks is represented solely by a very small patch at about the middle of their length. The same lack of intensity characterises the dark area on the thighs, which appears to be smaller than in the typical southern race.

Text-fig. 135.



Transvaal Khama Hartbeest (*Bubalis caama selbornei*).

The Transvaal race, which is typified by the aforesaid mounted buck, and may be named *Bubalis caama selbornei* [Abstract

